

[illegible]



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

OCT 26 2007



Mr. Larry E. Reider
Kern County Superintendent of Schools
1300 17th Street – City Centre
Bakersfield, California 93301

Dear Mr. Reider:

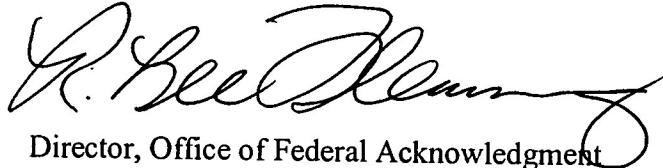
Thank you for your letter of September 4, 2007, to Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA) Carl Artman, regarding a group known as the Tejon Indian Tribe (Tejon, Petitioner #230). The Department of the Interior (Department) referred your letter to the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) for response.

OFA assists the Department in implementing the administrative process for acknowledging that a group continues to exist as an Indian tribe. This process is regulated under Part 83 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR Part 83), *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe* (copy enclosed). On October 27, 2000, the Department received a letter of intent from the Tejon group seeking to be acknowledged as an Indian tribe under 25 CFR Part 83, and designated the group as Petitioner #230.

In September 2006, Petitioner #230 made a presentation to the AS-IA, stated that it did not fall under the scope of 25 CFR Part 83, and requested that it be “confirmed” as an Indian tribe, or alternatively be recognized as a “Half-blood” Indian community pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act. In effect, the group is requesting that the Department place it on the list of federally recognized Indian tribes without it being required to go through a regulatory process.

For the AS-IA, OFA is reviewing the group’s claims, arguments, copies of documentation, and letters such as yours. OFA and the Department’s Office of the Solicitor will be making their recommendations to the AS-IA for his consideration, soon. We appreciate your interest in Indian affairs and timely input.

Sincerely,



Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

Enclosure

cc: Petitioner #230

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2007
ASIA-OFA

OFA

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TASKING PROFILE

ACCN #: 362772 **Status:** O **Fiscal Year:** 2007
Document Date 09/04/2007 **Received Date** 09/12/2007 **Due Date** 10/25/2007 **Action Office** BIA **Signature Level** DR **Doc Source** CTY

Addressee: Carl Artman

From: Reider, Larry E.
Superintendent of Schools
Kern County
1300 17th St
Bakersfield
CA 93301

Subject Text: Requests the DOI reinstate recognition of the Tejon Indian Tribe.

Required Surnames:

Mail Carrier: PM

Mail Track#:

Cross Reference:

Copies To: SIO-Exec

Status Tracking:

Correspondence Specialist:
CAllen

Corresp. Specialist Phone:
208-6540

Closed Comments:

Signed:

SEP 14 2007 COX

KERN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2007
ASIA-OF

LARRY E. REIDER, Superintendent

024134

September 4, 2007

Honorable Carl J. Artman
Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior
MS 4141-MIB
1849 C Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Artman:

In the interests of equity and fairness I respectfully urge you to reinstate recognition of the Tejon Indian Tribe. The Tejon tribe has a long history in Kern County. Many of its 211 closely related descendants reside in Kern County.

As Kern County superintendent of schools I represent the education of more than 178,000 students in kindergarten through grade 12. Unfortunately, because the Tejon Indian Tribe no longer is recognized, our children are losing the opportunity to learn about this aspect of Kern County's colorful past.

Restoring recognition will do more than open doors of opportunity for tribal members. You can help open educational avenues for Tejon tribal members to share their history and culture with our students. Recognition of the Tejon Indian Tribe will provide added credibility when these Native Americans interact with our students.

Again sir, my request is about equity and honoring commitments that once were made to the Tejon Indian Tribe and later revoked. Please reinstate recognition so the Tejon tribe's proud heritage and history will be rekindled in our schools and community.

Sincerely,



Larry E. Reider
Kern County Superintendent of Schools

LER:it

c: Kathryn Montes Morgan

... advocates for children

1300 17th Street - CITY CENTRE, Bakersfield, CA 93301-4533

(661) 636-4000 ■ FAX (661) 636-4130 ■ TDD (661) 636-4800 ■ www.kern.org

Partner - Kern County Network for Children

00037414-AS-IA-BATCH003-DOC0039-LET-20240 Page 4 of 4

9/23